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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/574,553	05/16/2000	Nanda Kutty	66329/97295B	7119

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EXAMINER

RAHIMI, IRAJ A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/574,553

Applicant(s)

KUTTY, NANDA

Examiner

(Iraj) Alan Rahimi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 May 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the first sheet" in section (a) of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knodt et al. (US patent 5,124,731) in view of Desmond et al. (US patent 5,991,516).

Regarding claim 1, Knodt discloses a method of processing a print job comprised of a document including a first page 1 through a last page n, wherein a control unit receives the print job from a computer workstation in a computer network and wherein the document was created at the computer workstation using an application program, the method comprising:

(a) the control unit 7 interpreting a set of instructions in the print job and causing a printer to obtain a sheet of paper from a first paper source (paper tray 112 or 114), the first sheet comprising a top cover (Figs. 3, 7 and 8) ;

(b) the control unit determining whether the top cover is one-sided, two-sided, or blank and (column 7, lines 20-33);

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(i) if the top cover is one-sided, the control unit causing the printer to print a first page of the document on one face of the first sheet of paper (column 7, lines 20-33; column 7, lines 61-67; column 7, lines 1-12 and Fig. 11B);

(ii) if the top cover is two-sided, the control unit causing the printer to print a first page of the document on a front face of the first sheet of paper and print a second page of the document on a back face of the first sheet of paper (column 7, lines 20-33 and Fig. 11A);

(iii) if the top cover is blank, the control unit causing the printer to output the first sheet of paper with a blank front face and a blank back face (Fig. 10 and column 11, lines 15-19);

(c) the control unit causing the printer to obtain one or more subsequent sheets of paper from a second paper source (paper tray 110 and Figs. 11A-D);

(d) the control unit causing the printer to print one or more pages from a remainder of the document using the one or more subsequent sheets of paper, wherein each page of the remainder of the document is printed on only one face of each of the one or more subsequent sheets of paper (Fig. 12A).

Although Knodt discloses different paper trays and different paper types to select, he does not specifically mention that front and back cover sheets are selected from different trays. Desmond discloses in column 5, lines 55-67 and column 6, lines 1-12 selecting front and back cover from different trays. Knodt and Desmond are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is printing multi page documents with front and back cover. Therefore, it

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would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention to use different trays for supply of the cover sheets to avoid mixing of different type stocks.

Regarding claim 2, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 1, wherein if the top cover is two-sided, the control unit causes the printer to print a first page of the document on a front face of the first sheet of paper (Fig. 11B).

Regarding claim 3, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 1, wherein if the top cover is two-sided, the control unit causes the printer to print a first page of the document on a back face of the first sheet of paper (Fig. 11C).

Regarding claim 4, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) the control unit causes the printer to obtain a last sheet of paper from the first paper source, the last sheet of paper comprising a bottom cover(column 7, lines 12-33 and Fig. 12A);

(b) the control unit causes the printer to print the last page of the document on a face of the last sheet of paper(Fig. 12A).

Regarding claim 5, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 4, wherein the last page of the document is printed on a front face of the last sheet of paper (Fig. 12A).

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Regarding claim 6, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 4, wherein the last page of the document is printed on a back face of the last sheet of paper (Figs. 11D and 12D).

Regarding claim 7, Knodt discloses the method of printing a document of claim 6, wherein a second to last page of the document is printed on a front face of the last sheet of paper (Fig. 12D).

Regarding claims 8, 17, 21, 25 and 27 arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1, are applicable.

Regarding claims 9 and 18 arguments analogous to those presented for claim 2, are applicable.

Regarding claims 10 and 19, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 3, are applicable.

Regarding claims 11, 20, 22 and 26 arguments analogous to those presented for claim 4, are applicable.

Regarding claim 12, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 2, are applicable.

Regarding claim 13, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 6, are applicable.

Regarding claim 14, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

Regarding claim 15, Knodt discloses the control unit of claim 11, wherein the top cover is one-sided and the bottom cover is two-sided. Fig. 10 shows options for printing on front and backside of cover with images on one side or two sides.

Regarding claim 16, Knodt discloses the control unit of claim 11, wherein the top cover is two-sided and the bottom cover is one-sided. Fig. 10 shows options for printing on front and backside of cover with images on one side or two sides.

Regarding claim 23, Knodt discloses the computer program product on a computer workstation of claim 21, wherein the dialog window includes user-selectable checkboxes coupled to a label describing the formatting features for the document (Fig. 10).

Regarding claim 24, Knodt discloses the computer program product on a computer workstation of claim 21, wherein the dialog window includes a pull-down menu that permits a user to choose a cover paper source from a list of one or more paper sources (Fig. 9).

Regarding claim 28, Knodt discloses the printing device of claim 27, the software additionally configured to cause the printing device to output a last sheet of paper from the cover

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paper source and print a last page of the document on a front face or a back face of the last sheet of paper (Figs. 8, 9, 10 and 11A-D).

Regarding claim 29, Knodt discloses the printing device of claim 27, wherein the printing device comprises a control unit (controller 7) coupled to a print engine (printer 8).

Regarding claim 30, Knodt discloses the printing device of claim 27, wherein the print engine and the control unit are a single unit (Fig. 2, item 1).

Other prior art cited

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tonkin (US patent 6,134,568) discloses previewing an assembled document.

Ikeda (US patent 6,573,974) discloses an image forming apparatus provided with function for binding a set recording sheets.

Takakura et al. (US patent 5,208,905) discloses a document processing apparatus which can edit sheet displayed on display screen.

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Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Iraj) Alan Rahimi whose telephone number is 703-306-3473.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.



Alan Rahimi
November 7, 2003



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